

# 7 FAM 250 DISPOSITION OF REMAINS REPORT

## 7 FAM 251 REPORTING REQUIREMENT

(TL:CON-62; 5-15-95)

a. By May 31 of every other year each post shall submit to CA/OCS in memorandum form a basic report describing the local requirements for burial, cremation, embalming, preparation of remains for shipment, transportation to the United States, exhumation of remains, and the price range for each service. The subject line should read:

"DEATH: Disposition of Remains."

b. Submission of a new and complete report is required every 2 years. If prices of services or merchandise change significantly within this time (10 percent or greater) a new report should be sent immediately. A sample report is shown in 7 FAM 251 Exhibit 251 .

## 7 FAM 252 CONTENTS OF REPORT

(TL:CON-62; 5-15-95)

The report should refer to the applicable laws or regulations with appropriate citation(s). It also should indicate whether the laws and regulations are national or local in scope. In supplying the report material, follow the pattern shown below:

(1) **Maximum Period Before Burial.** State whether local or national laws and regulations require interment within a specific period when the remains:

- (a) Are embalmed, and
- (b) Are not embalmed.

(2) **Embalming.** State whether and what type of embalming facilities exist and how soon after death the remains must be embalmed.

(3) **Cremation.** State whether local and national law permit cremation, under what conditions cremation may take place, and whether cremation facilities exist locally.

(4) **Caskets and Containers.** State whether caskets and containers available locally meet the requirements for shipment out of the country.

(5) **Exportation of Remains.** State the local and national regulations concerning the exportation of ashes and remains.

(6) **Costs.** The consular officer should provide accurate and reliable estimates, stated in U.S. dollars, of costs of local interment, cremation, embalming, preparation for shipment (including containers), and shipping costs by air. Estimates of air shipment of remains should reflect costs from the post to the East Coast, Mid-West (Chicago), and the West Coast, or to specific cities throughout the United States. For shipment of ashes also give cost estimates of insured parcel post or APO/FPO, if available.

(7) **Exhumation and Shipment.** Furnish the text of the laws and regulations concerning the disinterment and shipment to the United States of remains which have already been interred locally. Include an estimate of the cost for local mortuary services, containers, and shipment to various areas of the United States.

(8) **Remarks.** Include in this section any comments or remarks not covered in any of the previous sections that would be helpful to the Department in assisting the families of U.S. citizens who die abroad. Information on local requirements pertaining to autopsies, for example, may be useful.

## **7 FAM 253 SURVEY AND USE OF MORTUARIES**

*(TL:CON-62; 5-15-95)*

Whenever more than one competent firm is available, posts should solicit information on estimated costs for services from a number of such mortuary establishments in various cities or towns within the district. The post should rotate its business among several acceptable competitive mortuaries. Posts should not hesitate to change mortuaries, if possible, or to use various mortuaries on a tentative basis.

## **7 FAM 254 THROUGH 259 UNASSIGNED**

# 7 FAM 251 Exhibit 251

## SAMPLE DISPOSITION OF REMAINS REPORT

### Disposition of Remains Report

#### MEMORANDUM

TO: Department of State - CA/OCS

FROM: Amembassy Rosslyn

SUBJECT: DEATH: Disposition of Remains

REF: 7 FAM 251

The following information is submitted in accordance with referenced requirements. Various area mortuaries were surveyed in order to compile this data. The laws cited are from the national law of Z, The Revised Administrative Code of 1984 (RAC).

(1) Maximum Period Before Burial

When Remains Are Embalmed: (Sec. 1442 RAC) The maximum period before burial when the remains are embalmed is 8 days.

When Remains Are Not Embalmed: (Sec. 1442 RAC) The maximum period before burial when the remains are not embalmed is 48 hours.

(2) Embalming:

(Sec. 1443 RAC) Embalming must be carried out, when possible, within 24 hours of death. Embalming facilities exist in many cities in the consular district.

(3) Cremation:

(Sec. 1444 RAC) Cremation is permitted by national law and there are several crematoriums in the country. According to the national law a written expression of a desire to be cremated is required. In lieu of written expression, three witnesses must testify to the specific wish of the deceased. A court order is required to release remains for cremation when death occurs for other than natural causes. In all cremation cases the bodies must be partially embalmed before transporting or they will not be accepted by the crematorium.

(4) Caskets and Containers:

(Sec. 1445 RAC) When remains are to be transported out of the country, the body is first embalmed or otherwise appropriately prepared or cremated for shipment. It is then placed in a galvanized tin coffin, or urn in the case of cremation, within a wooden coffin which is finally placed in a suitable packing case that can support the weight of the complete container and body. Caskets and urns are available locally on short notice. They are prepared according to international regulations and meet the requirements for shipment out of the country.

(5) Exportation of Remains:

Human Remains: (Sec. 1446 RAC) To export human remains, the following documents are required by authorities:

- (a) Official Death Certificate;
- (b) Doctor's or Funeral Director's Embalming Certificate;
- (c) Police Clearance Letter; and
- (d) Authorization Certificate from Health Department.

Ashes: (Sec. 1446 RAC) To export cremains, the following documents are required by authorities:

- (a) Official Death Certificate;
- (b) Certificate of Cremation;
- (c) Police Clearance Letter; and
- (d) Authorization Certificate from Health Department.

(6) Costs:

Charges shown are based on the exchange rate of April 30, 19XX: \$1.00 = xxx Z-bills. All fees are approximate.

Local Burial: Fees include collection and transportation of remains, wood casket, funeral home charges, administrative fees, cost of burial plot in public cemetery, brief services with no mourners present. \$xxx.

Cremation and Disposal of Ashes: Fees include collection and transportation of cremains, Doctor's certificate, urn, crematorium fee, administrative fees, brief service with no mourners present and scattering of ashes. \$xxx.

Embalming: Fees include embalming and Doctor's/funeral director's certification. \$xxx.

Cremation: Fees include cremation and Doctor's/funeral director's certification. \$xxx.

Preparation and Shipment of Cremains:

(a) Fees include cremation, collection of ashes, documentation costs, and packaging for shipment. \$xxx.

(b) Add to this the shipment/mailling costs listed below.

	Airfreight	Insured Parcel Post	APO
Rossllyn to New York	..... xxx .....	xxx .....	xxx
Rossllyn to Chicago	..... xxx .....	xxx .....	xxx
Rossllyn to Los Angeles	... xxx .....	xxx .....	xxx

Preparation and Shipment of Remains:

(a) Fees include embalming, collection of remains, documentation costs, wood casket, and U.S. regulation shipping container. \$xxx

(b) Add to this the airfreight charges as listed below:

Rosslyn to New York .....	xx per kilo, \$xxx
Rosslyn to Chicago .....	xx per kilo, \$xxx
Rosslyn to Los Angeles .....	xx per kilo, \$xxx

The shipment cost is determined by the airline after the remains are accepted for shipment according to a special cargo rate. The approximate weight of a casket prepared for shipping is 200 kilos for an adult and 100 kilos for a child. The average urn containing ashes weighs 4 kilos.

(7) Exhumation and Shipment

(Sec. 1458 RAC) By law a body can be exhumed only after it has been interred for 5 years. An application must be made by the interested party to the Z Justice Ministry. This can be done through the Embassy. The disinterment must be made in the presence of a local police official and Doctor licensed to practice in Z. The approximate costs of exhumation are as follows:

(a) Exhumation within first 20 years .....	\$xxx
(b) Preparation of exhumed remains within first 20 years. ....	\$xxx
(c) Exhumation after 20 years .....	\$xxx
(d) Preparation of exhumed remains after 20 years .....	\$xxx
(e) Shipping container .....	\$xxx
(f) Shipping costs .....	See Item (8)

(8) Remarks:

There will be additional costs if the remains need to be transported within country prior to their departure from the capital. There will also be additional costs should the remains transit an airport outside Rosslyn and make a stopover on route to the final destination in the United States.

